



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,
MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**EX-BOOKKEEPER FOR MANHATTAN ART GALLERY PLEADS
GUILTY IN U.S. COURT TO EMBEZZLING OVER \$250,000**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that LUMINITA TECSY, a/k/a "Luminta Schleser," a former bookkeeper at the Andre Emmerich Gallery (the "Gallery"), pled guilty in Manhattan federal court today to a 23-count Indictment charging that she embezzled more than \$250,000 from her then-employer. The Gallery was a privately owned art gallery located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

According to the Indictment, TECSY worked at the Gallery from 1987 until August 1996, when the owner of the Gallery (the "Owner") sold it to Sotheby's Inc. From then until September 1998, TECSY continued to work as a bookkeeper at the Owner's new company, AE Liquidation Corp. In both positions, TECSY's duties included preparing checks for the Owner to sign and sending the checks to the appropriate payees.

According to the Indictment, starting in around 1996,

TECSY began diverting money from corporate accounts of the Gallery and AE Liquidation Corp., as well as from the Owner's personal account, for her own personal use. TECSY accomplished this by, among other ways, presenting checks to the Owner for his signature payable to American Express and Citibank Visa under the false pretense that they would be used to pay for corporate and the Owner's personal expenses, when in fact TECSY used them to make payments on her personal credit cards. The Indictment also alleges that TECSY embezzled additional funds by double-endorsing checks payable to the Owner and by forging the endorsements of payees and double-endorsing the checks to herself.

TECSY, 48, was arrested in Hungary and was extradited to the United States to face the charges in the Indictment.

TECSY pled guilty to 8 counts of mail fraud, 1 count of bank fraud, 11 counts of possession of forged securities and 3 counts of income tax evasion. TECSY faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years on each count of mail fraud, 30 years on the bank fraud count, 10 years on each count of possession of forged securities and 5 years on each count of tax evasion.

TECSY is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD on September 9, 2003, at 4:30 P.M.

Mr. COMEY praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, for their investigative efforts in this case. Mr. COMEY also thanked the government of Hungary for its cooperation and assistance in

the extradition of TECSY.

Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL MARGOLIS is in charge of the prosecution.

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